



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLUE SPRINGS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTING TO RECEIVE CHILD PORN VIA MAIL

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Blue Springs, Mo., man, pleaded guilty in federal court today to attempting to receive child pornography in the mail.

Brian D. Gnavi, 36, of Blue Springs, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey to the charge contained in a May 17, 2005, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Gnavi** admitted that he attempted to receive child pornography through the mail on Dec. 20, 2004.

According to Graves, a postal inspector with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service began an undercover operation after receiving information from the Blue Springs, Mo., Police Department that **Gnavi** was allegedly following children from area middle and elementary schools. There were several incidents, Graves said, in which **Gnavi** was reported to be following or watching young girls near his residence and/or area schools.

Using an undercover name and address, the postal inspector contacted **Gnavi** and offered to sell videos containing child pornography. **Gnavi** admitted that he requested seven different video tapes, and a controlled mail delivery was made at his home two days later, on Dec. 22, 2004.

Postal inspectors executed a federal search warrant of the residence after the delivery. In addition to the unopened parcel, investigators also found the letters that had been mailed to **Gnavi** from the undercover officer concealed in a pornographic magazine titled *Barely 18*, which was under **Gnavi's** bed. **Gnavi** also kept books containing pictures of naked children and a collection of pictures from magazines, catalogs and newspapers in his room. These images consisted primarily of minor females in underwear and swimsuits, all of which **Gnavi** stated he

used for sexual arousal. Inspectors also found eight videotapes in **Gnavi's** room that contained recorded television programming having to do with little girls, including news reports about little girls, dance recitals of little girls, a children's program and a little girls' beauty pageant.

Under federal statutes, **Gnavi** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Cynthia Phillips. It was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow